

Well respected among his peers, Mr. Rivera has displayed as much valor and courage in photojournalism as he once did in combat. His 1980 photograph capturing a store owner and an assailant under fire earned him the widely acclaimed international award for photography from the Agencia E.F.E. of Spain, becoming the first Puerto Rican to do so. This award was presented to Mr. Rivera by King Juan Carlos I and Queen Sofia of Spain. His photograph was also shown at the "Expo 92" in Seville.

Mr. Rivera's latest photographic accomplishment is "Motín en el Capitolio," where he captures commotion in the Rotunda of the Puerto Rican Capitol. Mr. Rivera won an award from the Photojournalist Association of Puerto Rico for this photograph.

He has also received numerous awards from other organizations; such as the Madín Rodríguez Award sponsored by the Puerto Rican House of Representatives and the Cultural Institute of Puerto Rico; and recognitions from the Puerto Rican Senate, the Rotary Club and the Lions Club. In 2006, he was selected by the Governor of Puerto Rico's Office of Veteran Affairs as one of the most accomplished and outstanding Puerto Rican veterans.

Mr. Rivera has also been actively involved with the community I represent in Congress. He has served as ambassador to the Bronx Puerto Rican Parade and provided press coverage to the Puerto Rican Day Parade in New York City for the past 18 years. His vivid photographs bring our communities together by capturing the rich Puerto Rican culture in New York.

Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise to honor Mr. Rivera, who currently resides in Bayamón, Puerto Rico. His service to our Nation is commendable. His contribution to photojournalism is invaluable. Mr. Rafael Angel Rivera epitomizes professional excellence and is an inspiration to us all.

IN SUPPORT OF HOMELAND SECURITY BILLS

HON. DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN

OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2008

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Madam Speaker, I rise to express my strong support for these six bills brought forth by the Committee on Homeland Security. I would like to commend Chairman THOMPSON and Ranking Member KING for their continued efforts and leadership on presenting legislation to enhance and strengthen our Nation's security. I would also like to congratulate my colleagues on the committee who authored these bills—Chairman THOMPSON, Congresswoman CLARKE, Congresswoman LOWEY, Congresswoman SHEILA JACKSON-LEE, Congressman DENT and Congressman LANGEVIN.

The enactment of H.R. 1, The Implementing 9/11 Commission Recommendations Act, was a major milestone for this Congress and I was proud to be a conferee to H.R. 1. With the passage of H.R. 1, Congress took the lead in making America more secure. H.R. 1 was a comprehensive measure to enhance our Nation's homeland security capabilities in profound ways.

The Homeland Security Committee has conducted numerous hearings to investigate the many areas covered by H.R. 1 and has worked diligently at developing legislation that focuses on specific areas of homeland security that require fine tuning in order to make H.R. 1 as effective as possible.

The bills being considered today will do everything from providing redress to Americans misidentified against the terror watch lists to enhancing DHS' capability to address the threat of improvised-explosive devices to ensuring the integrity of aviation security covert tests.

H.R. 4179, the Fast Redress Act of 2008, would enhance information sharing at DHS and between DHS and other Federal agencies that use the terrorist watch list or database. The bill also includes measures that would make the redress process more efficient and protect the civil rights of individuals on TSA's "Cleared List" and "No Fly" or "Selectee" lists.

H.R. 5909 is vitally important given the Committee's knowledge of at least three incidents that compromised the integrity of covert tests at TSA's screening checkpoints. It provides for security measures that would prevent disclosures that will jeopardize covert testing. H.R. 5982 will also enhance airport security by requiring information sharing on best practices for using biometrics to improve airport security. H. Res. 1150 recognizes the continued importance of rail security and ensuring that it is given equal importance in our national transportation security plans.

Bombing prevention is an integral part of our national security and requires that we provide the necessary resources for this purpose. H.R. 4749 does this by increasing funding and the capabilities of the Office of Bombing Prevention. Along similar lines, The Nuclear Forensics Attribution Act authorizes programs within DHS to develop an international framework to identify and intercept nuclear materials further reducing the possibilities of nuclear threat worldwide.

Lastly, I support H.R. 1333 which calls for both GAO and the DHS Secretary to examine and prepare a report on how the Civil Air Patrol can be integrated in our efforts to enhance national security and our war against terrorism. This is a positive effort in using local resources in supporting our homeland security mission.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support these bipartisan bills that have been thoughtfully crafted to enhance national security measures that are important to the implementation of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007.

FAREWELL TO ROC AMBASSADOR WU

HON. SHELLEY BERKLEY

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2008

Ms. BERKLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my best wishes to Dr. Joseph Jaushieh Wu and his family. After representing the Republic of China (Taiwan) for 1 year and 2 months, the Wu's will be leaving Washington this month.

Ambassador Wu graduated from National Chengchi University in Taiwan and earned his

Ph.D. in political science from Ohio State University. He taught briefly at Ohio State and later at his alma mater, National Chengchi University. In 2002, he began his government career as Deputy Secretary-General to President Chen Shui-bian. From 2004 to April 2007, he was the chairman of Taiwan's Mainland Affairs Council. He is the author of a number of publications, most notably, Taiwan's Democratization, published by Oxford University Press. In April 2007, he was appointed Taiwan's Representative to the United States.

As we all know, Taiwan has been undergoing profound political changes in recent years. With his strong communication skills, Ambassador Wu has given countless briefings to administration officials, senators, representatives and the media about Taiwan's internal politics, while at the same time, deftly highlighting Taiwan's willingness to negotiate with the People's Republic without pre-conditions. He has rightly emphasized Taiwan's strong political and cultural ties to the U.S., its trade relations with us, and its cooperation in combating global terrorism.

Today our government maintains a robust relationship with Taiwan because of leaders like Dr. Wu. We consider Taiwan a democratic ally and a strong trading partner. Nevertheless, due to the lack of official diplomatic relations between our two countries, it has not been always easy for Ambassador Wu to serve as interlocutor between our two governments. Despite all the challenges, Ambassador Wu has served his country with distinction and helped to strengthen the U.S.-Taiwan relationship.

I wish Ambassador Wu and his family the very best.

2008 CONGRESSIONAL AWARD RECIPIENTS

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2008

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 2008 Congressional Award recipients, honoring our Nation's young people who have achieved personal goals in the areas of volunteer public service, personal development, physical fitness, and exploration/development.

As public service volunteers, this year's recipients shared their time and talents for the benefit of others. Through selfless acts, they have demonstrated their devotion to community, displaying dedication, perseverance, and compassion.

In the area of personal development, recipient of the Congressional Award have gained life skills and knowledge as they developed a particular interest. While striving to achieve a personal goal of improvement, recipients exhibited immense personal growth.

As balanced individuals, recipients of the Congressional Award also strive for personal improvement in physical fitness as an effort to improve their quality of life, understanding the need to lead a healthy lifestyle.

The process of exploration/development presented recipients with the opportunity to gain a sense of independence as they became engaged in the world around, whether